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THE Wool SITUATION

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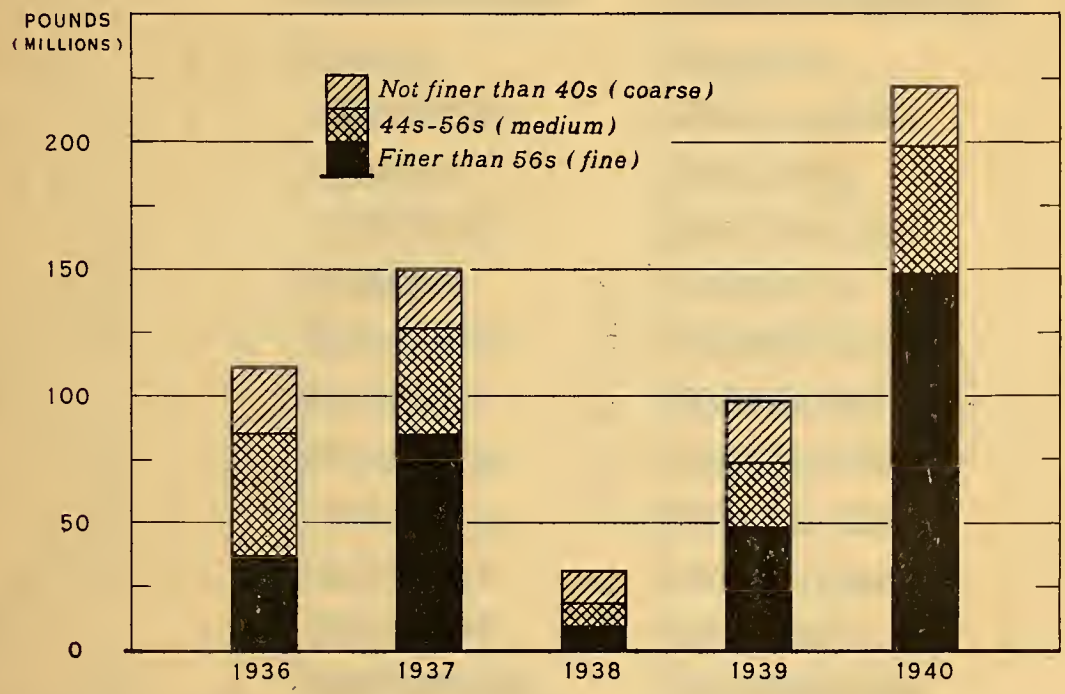
WOOL-50 BAE FEBRUARY 1941

APPAREL WOOL: IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION BY GRADE GROUPS, UNITED STATES, 1936-40

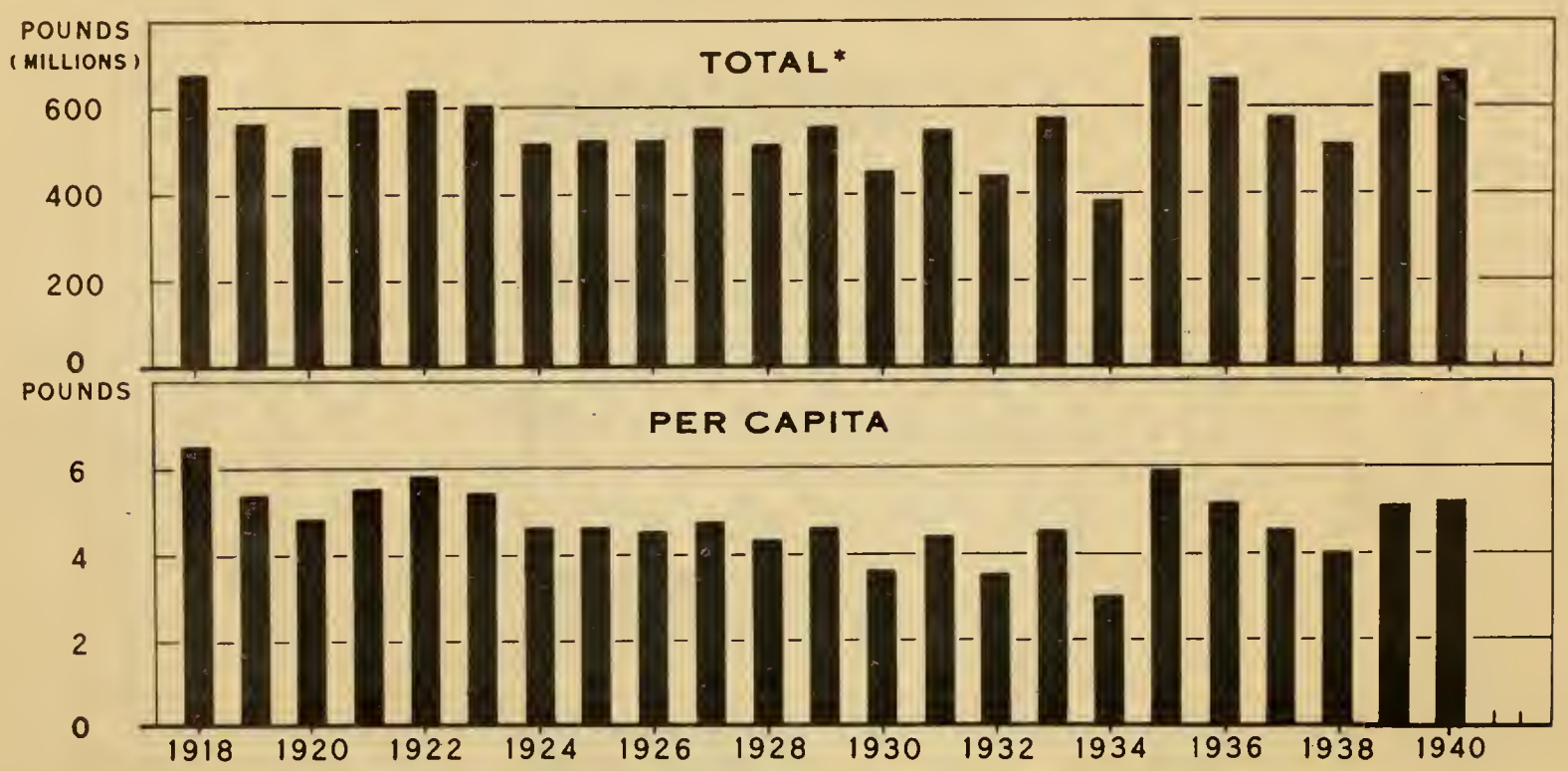


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 38947 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

UNITED STATES IMPORTS OF APPAREL WOOL IN 1940 WERE 125 MILLION POUNDS LARGER THAN IN 1939. THEY WERE THE LARGEST SINCE 1923. THE MARKED INCREASE IN IMPORTS IN 1940 REFLECTED CHIEFLY THE LARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR WOOLS FOR ARMY MATERIALS.

IN RECENT YEARS THE UNITED STATES HAS IMPORTED MOSTLY FINE AND MEDIUM WOOLS, AND IN 1940 MOST OF THE INCREASE WAS IN FINE WOOLS (GRADING FINER THAN 3/8 BLOOD OR 56s). IMPORTS OF MEDIUM WOOLS ALSO INCREASED, BUT IMPORTS OF COARSE WOOLS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE FROM 1939. THE PROPORTION OF FINE WOOLS IN TOTAL IMPORTS IN 1940 WAS THE LARGEST IN SEVERAL YEARS, WHEREAS THE PROPORTION OF COARSE WOOLS WAS SMALL.

APPAREL WOOL, GREASY SHORN BASIS: CONSUMPTION BY MILLS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1918-40



* COMPILED FROM REPORTS OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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FIGURE 1.- IN 1940 MILL CONSUMPTION OF APPAREL WOOL, GREASE BASIS, IN THE UNITED STATES WAS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN IN 1939, AND IT WAS LARGER THAN IN ANY RECENT YEAR EXCEPT 1935. THE LARGE CONSUMPTION IN 1940 REFLECTED IN PART THE MANUFACTURE OF MATERIALS FOR LARGE ARMY CONTRACTS. CONSUMPTION FOR CIVILIAN USES WAS SMALLER IN 1940 THAN IN 1939. MILL CONSUMPTION IN 1941 IS EXPECTED TO BE LARGER THAN IN 1940. THE LARGE CONSUMPTION IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN PART FROM GREATER CONSUMPTION OF WOOL FOR CIVILIAN USES IN 1941, BUT CONSUMPTION FOR MILITARY USES ALSO WILL BE LARGE.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Summary

Domestic supply and demand conditions are favorable for the marketing of the 1941 domestic wool clip. The carry-over of domestic wool into the new season, which begins about April 1, is expected to be the smallest in recent years. Although imports of wool in the first quarter of 1941 will be large, mill consumption also will be large, and total stocks of domestic and imported wool in the United States on April 1 probably will be relatively small.

Mill consumption of wool in the United States in 1941 is expected to be larger than in 1940, with most of the increase in the first half of the year. The large consumption is expected to result in part from greater consumption of wool for civilian uses in 1941, but consumption for military uses also will be large. Consumption in 1940 was slightly larger than in 1939; except for 1935 it was larger than for any recent year.

The relatively small carry-over of wool in this country and prospects for a large mill consumption of wool in 1941 will be strong supporting factors to domestic wool prices. Wool prices in the United States are expected to average higher this spring and summer than they did a year earlier. Since last spring, however, wool prices have advanced materially and any advance from present levels is likely to be moderate. Wool supplies available for shipment from foreign countries to the United States are relatively large.

Stocks of apparel wool reported by dealers and manufacturers, and stocks on farms and ranches and in local warehouses in Western Sheep States totaled 261 million pounds, grease basis, on December 31, 1940 compared

with 217 million pounds a year earlier. The 1940 stocks included 68 million pounds of wool afloat to the United States. If wool afloat is excluded the stocks held in this country on December 31 totaled 193 million pounds. Stocks, excluding wool afloat, were about equal to those of a year earlier but were much smaller than December 31 stocks in the years 1935-38.

United States imports of apparel wool for consumption in 1940 totaled 223 million pounds. Imports in 1940 were 125 million pounds larger than in 1939 and were the largest since 1923, when imports totaled 266 million pounds. Imports of carpet wool in 1940 were slightly smaller than in 1939.

Demand was good in South American wool markets in January. A further increase was reported in prices of fine grades of wool. Supplies of fine wools in Uruguay were reported to be practically exhausted by the end of January. United States buyers continued to purchase most of the wool sold. Of a total of 130 million pounds exported from Argentina and Uruguay from October through December, 114 million pounds were shipped to the United States.

-- February 10, 1941

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Sales of spot domestic wool small in January; contracting of new clip begins in West

Sales of spot domestic wools at Boston were small in January. Prices declined slightly in the latter part of the month but quotations on most grades were largely nominal. Interest in the domestic market is shifting to the Western States, where contracting of the 1941 clip is now under way. As yet, there is little information concerning prices for new clip wool.

Boston quotations on graded fine combing (staple) territory wools declined to $1.065 per pound in the last week of January after remaining unchanged at $1.085 since the latter part of October. Prices of 3/8 blood combing territory wools remained unchanged at 86.5 cents a pound in January. Spot prices of most grades of bright fleece wools declined one-half cent a pound, grease basis, during January. Prices of representative grades of territory wool, scoured basis, at Boston in January were 3 to 4 cents a pound higher than a year earlier.

The United States average price of wool received by farmers was 31.3 cents a pound on January 15 compared with 31.2 cents on December 15 and 28.1 cents on January 15, 1940.

Prices of foreign wools at Boston firm in January

Foreign apparel wools continued to predominate in spot sales on the Boston market in January. South American wools provided the bulk of the available supply of fine and 1/2 blood wools. A persistent spot demand and strengthening prices in South America kept prices of these wools very firm in Boston despite heavy receipts. Prices of Montevideo wools grading 56s and finer advanced about 2 cents a pound, grease basis, at Boston during January. Prices of best Australian wools advanced 2 to 3 cents a pound, scoured basis. At the end of January, spot South American wools sold at 95-97 cents scoured basis, including duty, for fine, and at 90-93 cents for 1/2 blood, according to reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Prices of fine Australian wools, scoured basis, including duty, were about $1.00-$1.02 for average combing length and $1.03-$1.05 for good topmaking types.

Stocks of apparel wool in the United States on December 31 relatively small; large supplies afloat to United States

Stocks of apparel wool reported by dealers and manufacturers and stocks on farms and ranches and in local warehouses in Western Sheep States totaled 261 million pounds, grease basis on December 31, 1940 compared with 217 million pounds a year earlier, according to reports of the Bureau of the Census. The stocks reported on December 31 included 68 million pounds of wool afloat to the United States. If wool afloat is excluded, the stocks held in this country on December 31 totaled 193 million pounds. This figure is about equal to stocks held on December 31, 1939 and is much smaller than December 31 stocks in the years 1935-38.

United States: Wool stocks reported on December 31, 1935-40

Year	Including wool afloat	Excluding wool afloat
	Million pounds	Million pounds
1935	239	1/ 229
1936	249	208
1937	271	270
1938	252	244
1939	217	192
1940	261	193

Compiled from Wool Stocks Reports, Bureau of the Census.
1/ Partly estimated.

Stocks of domestic wool reported on December 31, including stocks in Western Sheep States, totaled 122 million pounds, grease basis, compared with 140 million pounds reported a year earlier. The bulk of the domestic wool was held by manufacturers. Only 35 million pounds of domestic wool were held by dealers and about 1.5 million pounds were held on farms and ranches and in local warehouses in 13 Western Sheep States. (See table 2 at end of report.)

Stocks of carpet wool reported by dealers and manufacturers, including wool afloat, totaled 57 million pounds, grease basis, on December 31 compared with 54 million pounds a year earlier. December 31 stocks of carpet wool averaged 53 million pounds in the 5 years 1935-39. The accompanying table shows stocks of apparel and carpet wool reported by dealers and manufacturers on December 31, 1940 with comparisons, on a scoured-equivalent basis. Stocks reported by quarters, 1935 to date, are shown on a grease basis in table 2 at end of report.

Stocks of raw wool, tops, and noils held by dealers, manufacturers and topmakers, United States, December 31, 1940 with comparisons

Item	Scoured basis		
	1939	1940	
	Dec. 30 1/	Sept. 28 1/	Dec. 31
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Apparel wool, total	109,533	127,546	140,628
Dealers	43,063	52,784	47,084
Domestic	23,603	39,152	17,538
Foreign on hand	13,480	9,208	15,833
Foreign afloat	5,980	4,424	13,713
Manufacturers and topmakers	66,470	74,762	93,544
Domestic	37,275	47,517	38,146
Foreign on hand	19,810	19,397	28,922
Foreign afloat	9,385	7,848	26,476
Carpet wool, total	37,512	40,082	39,933
Dealers	2,725	1,114	1,281
Manufacturers	34,787	38,968	38,652
Tops	22,902	20,912	17,645
Noils	11,397	10,914	11,874

Compiled from Bureau of the Census Quarterly Wool Stocks Report, December 31, 1940.
1/ Revised.

1940 imports of apparel wool largest since 1923

Imports of apparel wool for consumption 1/ in December continued the increase which began in September. The December 1940 imports totaled 41.2 million pounds; they were more than twice as large as the 15.9 million pounds imported in December 1939 and the largest reported for any month since April 1923. Imports for the entire year 1940, totaling 223 million pounds, were 125 million pounds larger than imports in 1939. The 1940 imports were the largest since 1923, when imports totaled 266 million pounds.

Imports of carpet wool increased in December to 14.9 million pounds, compared with 11.1 million pounds in November and 9.8 million pounds in December 1939. Imports of carpet wool in 1940 totaled 134.7 million pounds, and were slightly smaller than in 1939.

Imports by grade groups

The increase in imports of apparel wool in 1940 was chiefly in the finer grades. Imports of wools grading finer than 56s (fine wools) were 100 million pounds larger in 1940 than in 1939. Imports of wools grading 44s to 56s (medium wools) were 24 million pounds larger in 1940 than in 1939, and imports of wools grading "not finer than 40s" (coarse wools) were about the same as in 1939. The increase in imports of fine wools in 1940 reflected the demand for fine grades of wool for Army materials. Consumption of wool for civilian uses was smaller in 1940 than in 1939.

Imports of fine wools in 1940 represented a much larger than usual proportion of the total imports. Imports of coarse wool in actual quantity in 1940 were about the same as in 1939, but they were a much smaller proportion of the total than in most other years. Because of the relatively small domestic production of coarse grades of crossbred wool in the United States a considerable part of the mill requirements for such wools is imported, but the quantity imported does not change greatly from year to year.

Imports of apparel wool for consumption, by grade groups, United States, 1936-40

Year	Not finer than 40s	44s-56s	Finer than 56s	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1936	26.0	48.1	36.6	110.7
1937	23.6	42.1	84.5	150.2
1938	12.4	9.3	9.1	30.8
1939	23.6	26.3	48.3	98.2
1940 1/	23.8	50.6	148.6	223.0

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
1/ Preliminary.

1/ Wool entered for immediate consumption plus wool withdrawn from bonded warehouses for consumption.

Mill consumption continues near record level in December

The weekly average mill consumption of apparel wool in December was 8,360,000 pounds, scoured basis, compared with the record consumption of 8,455,000 pounds in November. The December consumption was 49 percent larger than a year earlier and was the largest December consumption on record.

Mill consumption of apparel wool, on a scoured basis, in 1940 was 5.6 percent larger than in 1939 and with the exception of 1935 was the largest consumption since 1923. Because of the larger consumption of foreign wools, which are light shrinking, the consumption on a grease basis in 1940 was only 1.5 percent larger than in 1939. Consumption in 1940 was equivalent to 640 million pounds, greasy shorn and pulled. In 1939 consumption on a grease basis totaled 630 million pounds.

Consumption of carpet wool in December was slightly larger than in November and was larger than in December 1939. Consumption of carpet wool in 1940, totaling 137 million pounds grease basis, was 8 percent smaller than in 1939.

South American wool markets active in January; prices firm

Demand for fine grades of wool continued strong in South American markets in January. Sales were made to Japan, Sweden, Russia, and a few other countries but United States buyers continued to take the greater part of the wool sold in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. United States carpet mills were active buyers of coarse crossbred wools in Argentina. Prices of all wools were firm in January and further small increases were reported on some grades. Supplies of fine wools in Uruguay were reported to be practically exhausted by the end of January. The question of shipping space apparently continues to be a major problem in the South American wool markets. Uncertainty over shipping facilities to the United States was reported to be a restraining influence on forward sales in both Argentina and Uruguay in the latter part of January.

Exports from Argentina and Uruguay above average in current season

Exports from Argentina in the first 3 months (October-December) of the current season totaled 87.5 million pounds, compared with 71.5 million pounds exported in the same months last year and an average of 61.2 million pounds for those months in the 5 pre-war years 1934-38. About 90 percent - 78 million pounds - of the October-December exports in 1940 were shipped to the United States. In the 5 years 1934-38 only 20 percent of the October-December shipments were to the United States, the remainder going chiefly to the United Kingdom and continental Europe.

Exports from Uruguay from October through December 1940 totaled 42.7 million pounds compared with 19.4 million pounds in the same months last year and a 5-year (1934-38) average for those months of 26.8 million pounds. The

United States took 35.9 million pounds or 84 percent of the October-December shipments in 1940 compared with only 14 percent in 1934-38.

Shipments were made from Argentina and Uruguay to Japan and to a few neutral continental European countries from October through December 1940. Most of the European countries which previously purchased large quantities of South American wools, however, are now cut off from the market by the British blockade. The United Kingdom, formerly a leading buyer, has not made any important purchases of South American wools so far this season. Wool requirements of the United Kingdom are being filled largely with wools from Empire sources. The entire clips of New Zealand, Australia, and the Union of South Africa will be purchased by the British Government for the duration of the war.

Wool exports from Argentina and Uruguay in the current season, with earlier years for comparison, are shown by countries of destination in tables 5 and 6.

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND - Mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States declined sharply from October 1939 through April 1940, and wool prices declined in the first half of 1940. Since last May, consumption has increased rapidly, reflecting in part the manufacture of materials for large Army contracts. Consumption in the final quarter of 1940 was larger than at any time since 1918. The increase in consumption was accompanied in the latter part of 1940 by an increase of 15 to 20 percent in domestic wool prices.

United States imports of apparel wool were large in the latter part of 1939 and in 1940, but stocks in this country remained smaller than the average stocks of recent years.

Domestic supply conditions favorable to marketing of 1941 wool clip

The carry-over of domestic wool into the 1941 season which begins about April 1 is expected to be the smallest in recent years, and the total carry-over of domestic and imported wool also will be relatively small. With 3 months remaining of the current season stocks of domestic wool reported on December 31, 1940 totaled 122 million pounds of shorn and pulled wool, compared with 140 million pounds a year earlier and 212 million pounds on December 31, 1938. These stocks will be supplemented by the production of pulled wool during the remainder of the season. Mill consumption of domestic wool in the first 9 months (April-December) of the current season averaged about 45 million pounds a month.

Total stocks of domestic and imported wool in the United States on December 31, 1940 were about as large as a year earlier but they were much smaller than end-of-December stocks in the years 1935-38. Although imports of wool in the first quarter of 1941 will be much larger than in any recent year, mill consumption also will be larger.

Larger consumption in 1941 expected

Mill consumption of wool in the United States in 1941 is expected to be larger than in 1940, with most of the increase in the first half of the year. The large consumption is expected to result in part from greater consumption of wool for civilian purposes in 1941 but consumption for military uses also will be large. Mill sales of wool fabrics for civilian uses were about 10 percent smaller in 1940 than in 1939, although incomes of consumers increased in 1940. The decline in mill sales probably is reflected in reduced stocks in consuming channels. With further increases in consumer income in prospect, consumption of wool for civilian uses is likely to increase in 1941. Army orders now held by mills call for delivery of large quantities of wool cloth in the first half of 1941.

Army may place new orders in near future

On January 29 the House approved a deficiency appropriation of 175 million dollars for the procurement of articles of clothing and equipment for Army enlisted personnel. The appropriation will permit additional contracts during the current fiscal year, but the purpose of the appropriation is to permit a program of long-time planning for future demands.

In requesting the appropriation at this time it was stated that "in order to do a well-planned buying job which will keep costs at a minimum, give labor continuous employment, keep consumer prices down and obtain deliveries on schedule, orders must be placed from 6 months to 1 year in advance of the time the merchandise is needed."

It is expected that contracts will be let during the next few months but delivery will be permitted over a period of at least 6 to 10 months. "The extended dates of delivery should enable contractors to fit production of Army materials into the slack periods in production for civilian use. ... Early buying will also benefit the American wool grower because if contracts are placed in the near future the purchase of wool for Army uses will be made while the clip is still in the hands of the wool grower and the grower will get the maximum benefit of any market condition created by these purchases."

Wool items included in the appropriation, with approximate values, were as follows:

	Dollars
Wool cloth	69,500,000
Wool blankets	13,500,000
Wool shirts and drawers	12,200,000
Wool gloves	1,600,000
Wool socks	4,400,000

Higher prices expected for 1941 clip

The relatively small carry-over of wool in this country and prospects for a large mill consumption of wool in 1941 will be strong supporting factors to domestic wool prices. As indicated in the January issue of the Wool

Situation, wool prices in the United States are expected to average higher this spring and summer than they did a year earlier. Since last spring, however, wool prices have advanced materially and any advance from present levels is likely to be moderate. Wool supplies in foreign countries, available for shipment to the United States, are relatively large. As the United States is importing wool in large quantities domestic prices will be affected to a considerable extent by prices of foreign wool.

Data for chart on page 2:

Table 1.- Mill consumption of apparel wool, greasy shown basis, total and per capita, United States 1918-40

Year	Total	Per capita	Year	Total	Per capita
	Million pounds	Pounds		Million pounds	Pounds
1918	676.0	6.5	1930	447.9	3.6
1919	563.7	5.4	1931	545.2	4.4
1920	510.9	4.8	1932	439.8	3.5
1921	597.4	5.5	1933	572.2	4.6
1922	640.4	5.8	1934	381.4	3.0
1923	603.1	5.4	1935	748.4	5.9
1924	518.0	4.6	1936	666.4	5.2
1925	525.2	4.6	1937	579.5	4.5
1926	524.1	4.5	1938 1/	513.9	4.0
1927	551.1	4.7	1939 1/	673.9	5.1
1928	511.9	4.3	1940 2/	682.3	5.2
1929	554.7	4.6			

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Subject to revision on the basis of the 1939 Census of Manufactures.
2/ Preliminary.

Table 2.-Stocks of wool held by dealers and manufacturers, and stocks on farms and ranches in Western States, United States, 1935-40

Grease basis

Date	Apparel wool					On farms and ranches 2/	Carpet wool all foreign 3/
	Domestic		Foreign		Total reported		
	Dealers	Manufacturers 1/	On hand	Afloat			
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1935							
Mar. 30 4/	170,887	90,398	5/	28,105	289,390		41,907
June 29	183,818	112,758		22,899	319,475		43,004
Sept. 28	161,945	155,708		27,156	344,809		51,795
Dec. 31	76,861	114,239		43,433	234,533	4,500	51,772
1936							
Mar. 28	41,836	80,581		67,088	189,505	350	55,049
June 27	136,325	105,108	52,448	1,265	295,146		49,060
Sept. 26	128,845	93,696	35,912	3,145	261,598		47,462
Dec. 31	67,353	102,208	36,537	40,783	246,881	1,800	53,959
1937							
Mar. 27	34,873	81,488	77,585	18,804	212,750	330	53,923
June 26	131,967	87,989	63,024	4,407	287,387		51,172
Sept. 25	139,085	85,303	49,721	2,069	276,178		59,846
Dec. 31	134,623	66,037	37,568	1,259	239,487	31,600	63,471
1938							
Mar. 26	117,226	63,396	33,510	2,640	216,772	22,500	49,640
June 25	169,043	95,397	32,069	1,213	297,722		43,927
Sept. 24	181,847	104,559	32,306	2,445	321,157		37,969
Dec. 31	116,635	82,225	31,365	8,178	238,403	13,340	43,137
1939							
Apr. 1	68,554	64,345	39,764	8,276	180,939	6,290	48,527
July 1	107,910	103,857	38,575	5,425	255,767		46,860
Sept. 30	75,245	125,084	36,637	7,896	244,862		53,705
Dec. 31	44,051	81,491	51,749	25,243	202,534	14,384	53,942
1940							
Mar. 30	40,392	58,017	68,618	6,656	173,683	10,786	66,971
June 29	110,783	99,383	47,165	5,111	262,942		63,789
Sept. 28	91,110	108,031	44,311	20,141	263,593		53,624
Dec. 31 6/	35,055	85,283	71,013	67,779	259,130	1,463	57,253

Compiled from Bureau of the Census, Quarterly Wool Stocks Reports. These statistics are believed to include over 95 percent of the total stocks held by, and afloat to all dealers, manufacturers and topmakers in the United States.

1/ Includes topmakers stocks.

2/ Estimated by the Department of Agriculture. Estimates are of wool on farms and ranches and in local country warehouses in 13 Western Sheep States, not including any wool of the next season's clip. No estimates available for dates where no figures are shown.

3/ Includes carpet wool afloat to the United States.

4/ Grease basis figures for March 30, 1935 calculated from statistics of condition in which reported. Stocks figures were not reported on a grease basis by the Bureau of the Census until June 1935.

5/ Wool afloat not separately reported until June 1936.

6/ Preliminary.

Table 3.- Prices of wool per pound in specified markets, and prices of textile raw materials in the United States, selected periods 1938-41

Market and description	Average			High	1940		1941
	1938	1939	1940	1939 1/	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.
United States:	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Boston market -							
Territory, scoured basis -							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) staple	70.4	82.7	96.3	109.5	104.7	108.5	108.1
56s (3/8 blood) combing	58.9	69.3	79.7	94.1	82.8	86.8	86.5
46s (low 1/4 blood)	52.4	62.6	76.1	87.5	76.1	79.5	79.5
Bright fleece, greasy -							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) delaine	29.0	32.9	38.0	43.0	40.7	45.5	43.3
56s (3/8 blood) combing	29.5	36.2	41.2	48.8	44.5	45.2	44.8
46s (low 1/4 blood)	28.3	35.5	41.0	49.0	44.0	44.5	43.9
Foreign wool - in bond at Boston 2/							
Sydney - scoured basis							
64s, 70s, combing	54.8	58.6	67.9	79.2	73.5	70.5	73.3
Cape - scoured basis							
12 months, combing	53.6	53.7	62.9	73.8	63.2	65.2	70.5
Montevideo - grease basis							
Merinos (60-64s)	22.4	26.1	31.2	36.5	33.1	33.5	34.7
1s (56s)	26.1	28.3	32.4	38.5	34.3	33.5	33.5
Prices received by farmers, grease basis, 15th of month	19.2	22.3	3/28.4	28.7	28.1	31.2	31.3
Textile fibers:							
Wool, territory fine staple 4/	70.4	82.7	96.3	109.5	104.7	108.5	108.1
Cotton, 15/16" Middling 5/	8.95	9.30	10.17	10.84	10.98	9.94	10.10
Silk, Japanese 6/	170.6	271.8	278.1	392.1	368.3	256.2	
Rayon yarn, 150 denier 7/	52.2	51.5	53.0	53.0	53.0	53.0	
Rayon staple fiber 8/							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	
Acetate 5 denier	46.5	46.0	43.0	46.0	43.0	43.0	

Compiled from reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service except as otherwise noted.

1/ Highest monthly average price.
2/ Before payment of duty. Compiled from the Boston Commercial Bulletin.
3/ Preliminary - unweighted.
4/ Scoured basis, Boston market.
5/ Average at 10 markets. New series, 15/16" in place of 7/8" previously quoted.
6/ White, 13-15 denier, at New York, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
7/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
8/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 4.- United States: Wool imports, consumption, and machinery activity, selected periods, 1938-40

Item	Year			1939		1940	
	1938	1939	1940	Nov.	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Imports for consumption, actual weight: 1/							
Apparel	30,811	98,194	222,983	11,874	15,891	23,293	41,175
Finer than 40s	18,443	74,612	199,149	9,977	14,699	20,765	38,445
Not finer than 40s	12,369	23,582	23,834	1,897	1,192	2,528	2,730
Carpet, including camels hair	71,908	144,875	134,691	10,602	9,840	11,081	14,859
Mill consumption: 2/							
Grease basis- 3/							
Apparel	474,527	630,150	639,861	57,750	46,986	71,610	69,926
Carpet	92,736	148,513	137,103	13,401	10,925	12,958	12,965
Scoured basis-							
Aggregate-							
Apparel	219,565	293,083	309,449	26,436	22,378	33,821	33,440
Carpet	64,945	103,421	97,554	9,238	7,665	8,969	9,058
Weekly average-							
Apparel	4,143	5,636	5,951	6,609	5,595	8,455	8,360
Carpet	1,225	1,989	1,876	2,310	1,916	2,242	2,265
	Weekly average in hours						
Machinery activity: 2/							
Hours operated per machine in place-							
Worsted combs	39.8	51.8	55.0	60.7	51.1	71.8	74.7
Worsted spindles	26.9	39.6	37.7	49.7	40.4	50.6	52.6
Woolen spindles	30.6	39.8	43.0	45.1	41.9	53.6	55.0
Woolen and worsted looms-							
Broad	28.1	40.7	38.8	47.7	47.9	52.1	54.2
Narrow	10.5	13.2	13.6	20.0	15.3	15.3	14.6
Carpet and rug looms-							
Broad	23.4	37.4	37.8	43.8	41.7	42.3	42.3
Narrow	15.9	22.7	21.9	24.4	21.8	25.1	26.0

Import figures from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Consumption and machinery activity from the Bureau of the Census. 1/ Weight of greasy, scoured, and skin wool added together. 2/ Figures for November and December based on 4 weeks. 1938 figures for 53 weeks ended December 31. No adjustments made for holidays. 3/ Total of shorn and pulled wool. Pulled wool, grease basis, is in condition received from pulleries and is mostly washed.

Table 5.- Argentina: Wool exports by principal countries of destination, specified periods, 1934-40

Country of destination	Year beginning Oct. 1		Oct.-Dec.		
	Average 1934-38	1939	Average 1934-38	1939	1940
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
United States	53,450	136,914	12,338	45,230	77,569
Japan	7,087	15,066	2,480	4,683	4,588
United Kingdom	85,025	26,277	18,843	176	4
France	48,367	34,088	9,709	8,377	---
Belgium	20,458	11,091	3,290	1,157	---
Italy	18,962	18,803	2,471	2,478	---
Germany	48,940	---	7,611	---	---
Netherlands	2,150	10,227	530	2,286	---
Sweden	1,230	8,201	165	2,456	1,528
Finland	408	853	99	71	368
Russia	---	---	---	---	2,586
Other countries	18,578	20,272	3,649	4,555	871
Total	304,655	281,792	61,185	71,469	87,514

Compiled from commercial reports supplied by the Buenos Aires office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Table 6.- Uruguay: Wool exports by principal countries of destination, specified periods, 1934-40

Country of destination	Year beginning Oct. 1		Oct.-Dec.		
	Average 1934-38	1939	Average 1934-38	1939	1940
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
United States	14,718	36,880	3,797	11,081	35,926
Japan	7,890	5,531	2,293	840	2,732
United Kingdom	20,489	1,423	5,457	---	---
France	7,225	1,137	1,305	---	---
Belgium	10,465	3,628	1,670	128	---
Italy	13,484	13,341	2,644	2,905	---
Germany	30,511	4,416	7,464	---	---
Netherlands	3,968	13,552	1,094	968	---
Sweden	2,178	15,841	467	1,976	3,370
Finland	1/ 149	894	1/ 11	35	278
Russia	---	---	---	---	172
Other countries	4,125	9,759	654	1,483	264
Total	115,083	106,402	26,847	19,416	42,742

Compiled from commercial reports supplied by the Buenos Aires office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

1/ 1938 only.

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